



**U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement**

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News Release

3-time deportee and convicted aggravated felon sentenced to 10 years *Mexican national has four-separate drug convictions*

COLUMBUS, Ohio — A career criminal alien from Mexico was sentenced here today to 120 months in prison for re-entering the U.S. after having been previously deported three times, announced U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

Carlos Balas-Ramirez, 42, a citizen and national of Mexico, was arrested by Columbus Police Department officers in August 2005 on narcotics charges. Columbus PD then contacted ICE's Law Enforcement Support Center (LESC) in Vermont, where database checks determined that Balas-Ramirez was a prior deportee who was first removed to Mexico from the United States in November 1992.

The ICE investigation revealed that Balas-Ramirez had numerous convictions as an aggravated felon for possessing and distributing cocaine. Additionally, ICE agents uncovered that Balas-Ramirez also used eight aliases, preferring to be called Joaquin Santos-Carbajal. He also used three different dates of birth, and two social security numbers.

Balas-Ramirez pleaded guilty to this latest charge of re-entry after deportation in October 2005. He was previously convicted for the same charge in May 1994. He has been removed from the U.S. on three separate occasions: in November 1992, in August 1998, and July 2003. Re-entering the United States is a felony punishable by up to 20 years in prison. Following deportation, there is an automatic 10-year bar from being able to legally re-enter the United States.

"Criminals who believe that they can violate the integrity of our borders with impunity should take notice of this lengthy prison sentence," said Brian M. Moskowitz, special agent in charge of the ICE Office of Investigations for Michigan and Ohio. "Re-entry after deportation is a serious federal offense that undermines our security efforts and places the public at risk. ICE will continue to investigate these crimes and seek prosecution against those who commit them."

Balas-Ramirez has reserved the right to appeal. His removal from the U.S. is imminent with or without the appeal.

U.S. District Court Judge James L. Graham presided over the sentencing. Assistant U.S. Attorney Daniel A. Brown of the U.S. Attorney's Office, Southern District of Ohio, prosecuted the case. The Columbus Police Department assisted with this investigation.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of four integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.